

»» L'shana tova!

Jewish Observer of Central New York

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Happy New Year

שנה טובה

5782



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The Jewish Community
Foundation OF CENTRAL NEW YORK

September 2021

From the Editor



Barbara Davis

There are so many ways to begin a year in a Jewish organization. There's July 1 for the fiscal year and January 1 for the calendar year. There's *Rosh Hashanah* for the Jewish year. Since I worked for so long in the academic world, the year always starts for me in September. What I like the most about these varied kick-off points is that they all represent the ability to begin anew, to forget anything bad from the past and to look forward to a fresh start, a new beginning, a pathway to a different and better place.

In moving from the awful of COVID to the awe-ful of the *Yamim Noraim* in our Jewish community, we must seek out and honor the good things that happen each and every day. In 5781 we came through a plague of biblical proportions. We managed to hold fast to our beliefs and our ways of life. We learned that technology can open up new ways of "doing Jewish" and staying connected that we will probably never abandon. Who needs to go out to night meetings in Syracuse winters ever again? Who needs to miss lifecycle events here even when wintering in warmer climes? How wonderful is it that those who are ill at home or in the hospital can still attend services virtually?

Rosh Hashanah comes so early this year. It's almost as if we couldn't wait to put 5781 behind us. Memories of closed congregations, livestreamed services and virtual lifecycle events are not ones that inspire us. Yet as we begin a new year, there is much we have learned from the year that is ending. We have learned how much we value connection and how technology can actually link us to those who have moved away or are housebound. We have seen an increase in the number of people taking classes and attending services, albeit remotely. The term "hybrid" has acquired new meaning and will likely be a part of synagogue participation for a long time to come.

Rabbi Aron Moss recently pointed out that "You don't need a synagogue to pray. And you don't need to pray to go to synagogue. This is clear from the very name 'synagogue.' *Synagogue* comes from the Greek *sunagoge* which means 'bring together.' And if that's all Greek to you, the original Hebrew term is *Beit Kneset*, a house of gathering. It is not called a house of prayer, but a house of community connection."

Rabbi Moss points out that "the synagogue is where we meet old friends and make new ones. People who would otherwise never cross paths interact and get to know each other. It is one of the few places where everyone belongs. Young and old, rich and poor, familiar and strange, politically left and right, all are welcome in the synagogue." More importantly, he notes that while "cancel culture" has become a distressing factor in modern society, "the Jewish world has kiddush culture, where we mix with all types, and become enriched by the experience."

Our community is coming together in new and different ways. Two of our synagogues will share space in 5782. The Community Hebrew School enrolls children from three of our community's synagogues and some who are not affiliated. A continuum of Jewish education has been created between the Community Hebrew School and the Epstein School of Jewish Studies.

Just as 5781 was defined by the pandemic, may 5782 be defined by the establishment and reestablishment of the connection that was lost and so missed in the recent past. Let us restore the friendships that arise out of the shared experiences of serving on a board or a committee, working on a project, praying and singing in *shul*, taking a class, making *shiva* visits or celebrating a *simcha*. Let's restore the human connections among the Jewish people that allow us to stand together and to feel responsible for one another.

Our community is not large, but it has so many wonderful, diverse and fascinating people in it, many of whom we profile in the pages of the *JO*. It also has people who are deeply committed to living a Jewish life, defined in so many different ways. Every year, as we approach the High Holidays, I think about an aunt of my husband's, who never exhibited an ounce of Jewish observance during the decades of my knowing her. And yet, when she died, I learned that every year, in the small town in New Jersey where she lived, Aunt Florence went to the synagogue and prepared the foods that the community ate to break the *Yom Kippur* fast.

So whether you're a Pew Jew or a New Jew or a salad-bar Jew or an aspirational Jew, Jew-curious or Jew-knowledgeable, Jewish or Jew-ish, I want to wish you a happy, successful, healthful and satisfying new year. May all of us be blessed with peace and joy. *Shanah Tova U'Metukah*- A Good and Sweet Year!

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President/CEO.....Michael Balanoff
Board Chair.....Neil Rosenbaum
Editor.....Barbara Davis



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Produced by



Creative Director.....Jean-Pierre Thimot
jpthimot@buffalospree.com
Lead Designer.....Kimberly Miers
kmiers@buffalospree.com
Senior Graphic Designers.....Josh Flanigan, Adam Van Schoonhoven,
Nicholas Vitello
Director of Advertising.....Barbara E. Macks
Sales Director.....Cynthia Oppenheimer
coppenheimer@buffalospree.com
Senior Account Executives...Terri Downey, Keren Green, Mary Beth Holly,
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Message from Michael Balanoff

President/CEO

Winston Churchill once said, “Never let a good crisis go to waste.” While the past year and a half certainly put us into crisis mode, our community is, in many ways, stronger today than we were before the pandemic. As we celebrate the beginning of 5782, we have much for which to be grateful:

- Despite COVID, Syracuse Hillel engaged over 700 Syracuse University and SUNY ESF students through dynamic and meaningful religious celebrations, programming, mentorship, learning and 1:1 relationship building.
- Despite COVID, the Syracuse Hebrew Day School had full-time, in-person instruction all year, a 60% increase in enrollment, greater fiscal stability, the hiring of additional faculty and the initiation of a county-wide Coalition of Nonpublic Schools.
- Despite COVID, Federation’s campaign for our community raised \$1,215,730 from 783 donors compared to \$1,171,216 last year from 968 donors as of July and we’re still receiving donations.
- Despite COVID, the Jewish Community Foundation of Central New York’s assets hit an all-time high, with 22 million dollars invested in our accounts. As a result, the Foundation was able to contribute a record-setting \$320,000 to the Federation’s campaign coffers, accounting for fully 25% of the campaign achievement

5782 will be a *shmita* year, a year of release or sabbatical, a practice deeply rooted in Torah. In a *shmita* year, debts are forgiven, agricultural lands lie fallow, private land holdings are opened to all, and staples and harvests are to be freely distributed. Although halachically required only in the Land of Israel, there are aspects of *shmita* which we can perhaps apply to our own lives in the diaspora to help us deal with the stresses and challenges of our day.

The concept of sabbatical is particularly appealing this year. A sabbatical, like the Sabbath, is a time to rest. It is a time in which to step back and focus on the deeper meaning of our lives. Just as COVID renewed our appreciation of teachers and front-line workers, work/life balance and the power of personal connection, a *shmita* year can allow us to turn this appreciation into meaningful action.

We need to reflect deeply on our community’s strengths and resources. We need to meet with one another, talk with one another and plan with one another. Conflicts and animosities of the past need to remain in the past. We need to forge new



friendships and new programs which capitalize on our community’s many strengths and meet the new and emerging needs of our community in the year 5782. We need to be more open, transparent and forthright about our fiscal capabilities and demographic realities. We need to continue to support and strengthen Jewish education for our children, who are our future, as well as for our adults. We need to provide for those in need. We must continue to be innovative and forward-looking, and not fall into the trap of avoiding change “because that’s the way we always did it.”

We are fortunate that we have young people and young families moving into our community. As COVID showed us that we can work remotely and that many of the stresses of the lives we were leading pre-pandemic were unnecessary and even harmful, our community was enriched by those who appreciate the calmer, more accessible, more reasonably-priced and quite beautiful lifestyle that Central New York can provide. With these new families comes new vigor, new ideas, new inspiration.

As we enter a new year, a year in which to rejuvenate our lives and our community, let us continue to appreciate and be grateful for our many blessings, at the same time that we plan ways to make those blessings grow. May you all enjoy a sweet and happy new year in 5782.

Message from Neil Bronstein

Board Chair



L’chaim! To life!

Just two words, but immensely powerful.

Mary Barra, General Motors CEO and one of the greatest business leaders in modern times, held a position in human resources on her journey to the top. In that role, she found a dress code document that was 10 pages long and incomprehensible. She replaced it with two words: “Dress appropriately.” Effective in the 30 countries, countless languages and a span of job titles.

As I think about the year 5782, I was struck by what else we can describe in just two words and be so focused and meaningful.

To community! We are a strong and vibrant community on an upward trajectory. Over the 39 years that Debbie and I have lived here, that strength has continually improved, thanks to courageous leaders who have driven change. Today, we can be proud of the strides towards cohesion, collaboration and walking the talk.

To family! It is thrilling to see young people returning to their roots in Syracuse. Whether because of family, COVID life changes or lifestyle choices, I believe it will continue as Syracuse offers new and improved opportunities.

To inclusiveness!! We at the Federation, led by Michael Balanoff, focus greatly

on inclusion. Bringing together diverse faces, beliefs, viewpoints, family make-up and age is a key to continued vibrancy and resilience.

To education! We currently enjoy a wide range of Jewish educational opportunities and we have begun a wide-ranging dialogue to find the best ways to support and grow this priceless part of the community.

To investment! Also key to our journey are strong physical and programmatic institutions. Here we need to be leading edge. New technologies can bring us closer and bring world-class programs from around the world to us.

L’shana tova! To a good year! May 5782 move us forward.



D'var Torah

by Rabbi Evan Shore, Shaarei Torah
Orthodox Congregation of Syracuse



When the still small voice of the shofar is sounded on Rosh Hashanah, I will be contemplating unity. Recently I watched a video about lions stalking and attacking a baby water buffalo very close to a body of water. After a minute or so, a crocodile lunged from the water and sank its jaws into the back of the baby water buffalo.

A tug of war commenced between the lions and the crocodile, with the lions finally pulling away the baby water buffalo. A few moments later, a herd of water buffalo returned, numbering at least one hundred, and began to surround the lions. To make a long story short, the lions finally gave up on the baby water buffalo and the calf returned to the herd, no worse for the wear.

Over the past few years, we have witnessed erosion of unity in world Jewry. Whether it be political, philosophical or support for Israel, Jewish unity is on the decline. Jonathan Rosenbloom points out that “We are one,” “One people,” and the like, are the perennial slogans of Jewish fundraising. The slogans are meant to arouse feelings of nostalgia for bygone days when most Jews still possessed a strong sense of connection to one another.

This year, we must not only work harder to achieve unity but also make it a reality. Immediately after the conclusion of the service on the first night of *Rosh Hashanah*, we greet others with the following words: *May you be inscribed and sealed for a year that is good, and for peace and for life, immediately!*

Rabbi Aharon Karlin points out the Hebrew words for the shofar sound *t'ruah* and the Hebrew word for friendship, *re'ah*, share the same root. The lesson is very profound: only when all of the Jewish people interact with each other as friends will the sounds of the shofar have a positive effect. When all of Israel is united, the mercy of *Hashem* is unlimited.

Please God, this year, I also ask all Jews to be written and sealed in the Books of Unity and Friendship.

To all a happy, healthy and unified New Year!

» Book Review

When Freedom Speaks – A New Book for the New Year

Lynn Greenky, an attorney admitted to the New York State Bar, uses her legal training and expertise to teach presentation, advocacy and argumentation in the Department of Communication and Rhetorical Studies at Syracuse University. She is interested in political and legal discourse and created courses that reflect those concerns. She teaches courses in public advocacy, argumentation and legal communication, serves as a pre-law advisor and coordinates the White-Denison Presentational Speaking Competition. In her Maymester course, “Political Communication Inside the D.C. Beltway,” students travel to Washington to explore the role of communications with insiders.

As an outgrowth of her work, Lynn has written a book entitled *When Freedom Speaks*, to be published by Brandeis



University Press in 2022. The work chronicles the stories that narrate “our First Amendment right to speak our minds.” Lynn notes that “all court decisions about constitutional principles are embedded in the stories of peoples’ lives. Telling the story helps bring the legal issue to life and makes it much easier to understand and discuss.” It is her hope that this book will engage today’s increasingly politically active audience and introduce them to the theories, the landmark Supreme Court cases and recent lower court cases that guide First Amendment jurisprudence.

Lynn hopes that the book can cross over from an academic audience to the interested and politically engaged public and wrote it to appeal to that audience as well. “I am not taking a position” on the issues, she notes, “I explain the principles so everyone can engage in the conversation.” The following quote from the book’s conclusion seems particularly germane as we begin 5782: “As a civil society, it is up to us to infuse the First Amendment with morality. Using the First Amendment as a weapon to inflict pain, to insult, to heckle, or to embarrass dishonors its purpose. It is our responsibility as citizens of a democratic collective and as human beings to honor the First Amendment’s intentions by speaking to one another and communicating in a manner that respects the value of the other.”

» Book Review

The Lost Shtetl by Max Gross

Reviewed by Jackie Miron

At first glance, *The Lost Shtetl*, a debut novel by Max Gross, looks a bit off the wall. The basic plot is the story of an old Polish village (*shtetl*) from the 18th century that has escaped change and progress, including the Holocaust. It exists in some kind of time warp, as the novel takes place in the present. An event forces some characters to leave the isolation of the village and results in their exposure to the present. The villagers, the government and the authorities become involved to solve the mystery of the missing persons.

Readers will be easily hooked if they can get past the fantastical and learn what happens when a society is pushed into current reality from a certainly alternate reality. Remember “Back to the Future” or “Crocodile Dundee”?

As crazy as it sounds, you will be entranced with the readability, humor, wit and deep character development. You will fall in love not only with the main characters, but also the tangential ones. The history is supremely accurate,

told with utter detail and precision.

Non-Jewish readers may not appreciate the humor or understand every punch line, but just knowing the basics of the Holocaust and, assisted by the footnotes explaining Yiddish and Polish phrases, will be intrigued.

For all the humor and attractive and funny characters, there is heaviness to the background which speaks to themes of antisemitism and the realities of an oppressed group. The reader is emotionally touched by the unfairness of the ways Jews are viewed and treated, no matter the century. Themes of morality, prejudice, war and calamity are threaded throughout the story, as the old and the new clash. The pace of the narrative is fluid, moving and unforgettable. It reminds the reader that even the humorous can be philosophical.

The ending may be the only part that could disappoint. It gets somewhat confusing and scattered, or it could just be you are nearing the end of what has been endearing and entertaining. After the end, you may realize how much has changed, or really, not changed.

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BNAI MITZVAH

New Jewish Adults

The *Jewish Observer* is delighted to recognize the milestone achievement of the young people in our Jewish community who became b'nai mitzvah in the spring and early summer.



Myah Pettiford became a *bat mitzvah* on March 6. She attended the Congregation Beth Shalom-Chevra Shas religious school and the Community Hebrew School. She loves dancing, singing and acting. She is in her school band playing the bass clarinet.



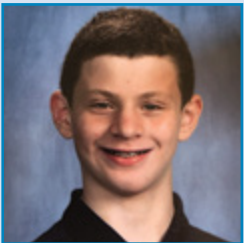
Leora Zames celebrated becoming a *bat mitzvah* on May 15 (after postponing for a year due to the pandemic) with a combination outdoor-and-Zoom service to be COVID-safe. Leora is a graduate of the Syracuse Hebrew Day School, a student at the Epstein School and is in the ninth grade at Christian Brothers Academy. She loves being with family and friends, working with animals, swimming and making art.



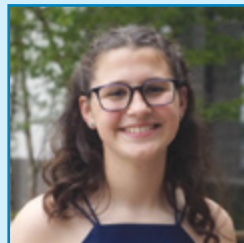
Benjamin Resig became a *bar mitzvah* on May 29. He received his religious education at the Syracuse Hebrew Day School and the Epstein School and he attends Camp Ramah New England in Palmer, Massachusetts in the summers. Ben is on the volleyball and track & field teams at Wellwood Middle School and is a Tenderfoot Scout in Pack 152. In his spare time, he enjoys video games, woodworking, reading and hanging out with his friends.



Talia Salomon became *bat mitzvah* on June 19. She attends Temple Concord and has completed the Community Hebrew School. She loves her summers at Camp Seneca Lake, swimming on the J-D modified swim team and playing music at home and in the school band. Tali is an animal lover and passionate about gender equality and LGBTQ+ rights.



Aaron Graham became *bar mitzvah* on March 20. He attended the Temple Concord Religious School and the Syracuse Community Hebrew School. Aaron enjoys playing soccer, hockey and video games. He also loves reading, studying history and helping animals.



Sydney Bergquist became a *bat mitzvah* on May 22. She received her religious education at Temple Concord. She is a student athlete, playing soccer, basketball and lacrosse. Sydney has enjoyed sports camps this summer and traveling for tournaments. She also enjoys reading, playing video games with her friends and spending time outside.



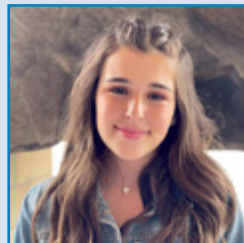
Iris Horowitz became a *bat mitzvah* on June 5. She received her religious education at Temple Adath Yeshurun. She attended Camp Pembroke in Massachusetts for the first time this summer. Iris collected clothes and toiletries for the homeless for her *bat mitzvah* project. She enjoys cooking, travel and spending time with her friends. She is kind-hearted and cares deeply for others.



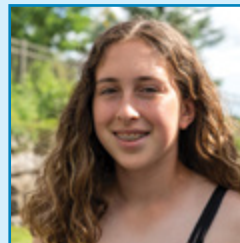
Owen Reckess was called to the Torah as a *bar mitzvah* on June 26. He is a graduate of the CBS-CS Religious School and the Syracuse Community Hebrew School. Owen enjoys history, cooking and being outside. This is his fourth year playing violin in the Symphoria Youth String Orchestra.



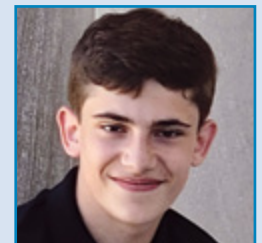
Makayla Seidman became a *bat mitzvah* on April 17, 2021. She is a graduate of the Syracuse Hebrew Day School, attends Temple Concord Sunday School and will start attending the Epstein School this fall. Makayla is into art, helping animals, karate and playing her guitar and ukulele. She also loves to babysit, volunteer at Peak Martial Arts, where she is a 2nd degree blackbelt, and to work with young children.



Jessica Taylor Beasley became *bat mitzvah* on May 22. She received her religious education at Temple Adath Yeshurun. Jessica's love is dance and she has competed across the nation and internationally.



Emma Waldman became *bat mitzvah* on June 12 at Temple Concord. She attended Temple Concord and the Syracuse Community Hebrew School. Emma enjoys softball, reading and art. She is spending her summer enjoying the outdoors with friends and will attend the Epstein School in the fall.



Matthew Packard became *bar mitzvah* on July 3. He received his religious education at Temple Adath Yeshurun. He loves playing basketball, going fishing and riding his dirt bike. Matthew is a kind young man who is always there for his family and friends.

New Leadership for the New Year

Rabbi David Katz

“I decided to come to Temple Concord because it is an historic congregation, the ninth Reform Congregation in the country, proud of its history and eager to reimagine what its future will be. With the groundwork that has already been laid, I believe it will be at the forefront of Reform Judaism, and I want to be a part of this exciting enterprise.” These are the words of Rabbi David Katz, who will serve as interim rabbi at Temple Concord for the next two years.

Rabbi Katz was ordained in 1981 and awarded the Doctor of Divinity degree from Hebrew Union College in 2006. He has 40 years of experience in the rabbinate, including service to seven congregations as interim rabbi. The author of numerous articles and co-editor of *Reading Between the Lines: New Stories from the Bible*, Rabbi Katz served on committees that developed *Mishkan T'filah*, the newest Reform Judaism prayer book, used in synagogues throughout North America. Rabbi Katz also developed the “Moments” Engagement Program, a way of organizing synagogue life to assure successful attendance at every program, service and event.

“While I am at Temple Concord, I want to lend my expertise, as a trained specialist in congregational transitions and transformation, to reimagine space in a post-COVID era, to take the best lessons from our use of social media to ask what the synagogue of the future will look like and feel like,” said the rabbi. “Last year I invited a colleague from Israel to join my Torah study class by Zoom. It was a powerful experience for everyone. Only later did I realize I could have done the same thing years ago.”

Rabbi Katz has served on the boards of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and National Association of Temple Educators and as president of New York Area Reform Rabbis. He has received many honors and awards for scholarship, community service and human relations. He also holds degrees in theatre from Northwestern University. A native of Rochester, Rabbi Katz appreciates the natural beauty and resources of upstate New York. “Having grown up in Rochester, I have an affinity for Western and Central New York,” he says. “When I was in fifth grade, our class dressed up in 19th century



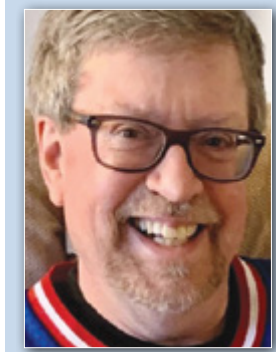
costumes and took a boat ride on the Erie Canal. Here in Syracuse, I live a short walk from the Canal and when I walk along its path, I not only cross from one geographical point to the next, I traverse time, as well.”

Rabbi Katz is a person of many and varied interests. A county champion pole vaulter in high school, he is also active in the fields of journalism, creative writing, humor, Jewish education and drama. His family is also multi-talented. His wife is an artist and his son is a harpsichord player. His daughter is the Executive Director for the organization “Justice for Kurds.”

Rabbi Katz is very comfortable serving in an interim position. “Over the course of 40 years in the rabbinate, serving large congregations and small, I know how hard it is to make transitions,” he notes. “But it is also exciting, because there is the opportunity to re-imagine oneself. This is what we have been - what now may we become? The primary role of the Rabbi is to be a non-anxious presence, see the best in every person and help the congregation envision the future.” The Temple Concord family is delighted to welcome Rabbi Katz to lead them in this time of transition,” Temple President Jeff Lefkowitz said.

Jeff Lefkowitz

Jeff Lefkowitz, the new president of Temple Concord, is a long-time Upstate New Yorker. Born and raised in Utica, Jeff attended Utica Free Academy, left Utica in 1971 to attend college and never really went back. He met his “wonderful wife and inspiration” Meryl at the State University College at Oswego, and graduated from SUNY Albany in 1975 with a degree in history. Meryl and he were married that year and, other than a short stint in the Capital District, have lived in the Syracuse area ever since. Jeff earned a master’s degree from LeMoyne College and recently retired from a 40-year career in the insurance business.



“My family and Jewish connections are deeply entwined,” Jeff notes. “I am the first generation in my family born in the United States. Both of my parents are Holocaust survivors and their experiences deeply influenced my commitment to Judaism. Although I grew up in an Orthodox congregation in Utica (Congregation Tifereth Zvi), I eventually found a spiritually rewarding home at Temple Concord. Today I am blessed to have my children, Melissa and Faith, their husbands, John and Ben, and my eight grandchildren, Joshua, Solomon, Abram, Jacob, Zyporah, Judah, Mick and Ruthie, all living locally in Manlius and Fayetteville.”

Although he was a regular attendee at Temple Concord over the years, Jeff did not get involved with the board until the last few years. “After experience on the board, and as treasurer, as well as participating on various committees at Temple, I was honored to be selected as president,” he explains. “It is a very interesting and exciting time at Temple Concord as we

move the process of selling our property, hiring a new rabbi and, of course, dealing with a world-wide pandemic. I am grateful to the board and congregation of Temple Concord for allowing me to serve during at this juncture in our history.”

Jeff knows that his term of office will be challenging. “It goes without saying that Temple Concord is going through a number of significant changes. However, we remain a vibrant and engaged congregation. Over the next few years, I hope to be able to lead the congregation in executing several key initiatives currently underway. These include our new five-year strategic plan, which will help us define and guide the congregation over the near and middle term, finalizing our building sale and working with our wonderful Cantor Kari Siegel Eglash and our new Interim Rabbi David Katz to continue to provide the congregation with beautiful and meaningful worship services.” Jeff’s goals for the future of the Temple Concord as a “strong, vibrant and viable congregation” include financial stability and a new facility “which will reflect who we are and who we aspire to be into the future.”

In his free time, Jeff says that he enjoys reading, playing golf (badly) and taking in any hockey game that he can. And of course, spending time with his grandkids is tops on the list. As he steps into his new leadership position in the new year, Jeff gives special thanks to his wife Meryl, “who encouraged me to get more involved in Temple life. After watching her spend her career serving our nation’s veterans as a nurse and nurse practitioner at the Syracuse VA hospital, I was inspired to use this opportunity at Temple Concord as my chance to serve our Jewish community as well.”

Neil Hoyt

Neil Hoyt is the new chair of the Investment Committee of the Jewish Community Foundation of Central New York. Neil grew up on the north shore of Long Island, graduated from Cornell in 1986 and started his career in finance with Prudential Financial in Jericho NY. He and his wife, Suzanne, a chiropractor and Utica native, moved to Syracuse in 1991. Neil joined a financial planning firm, Michael Roberts Associates in 1991 and is now president of the company, which is a full-service financial planning firm engaged in investment and retirement planning. Now in its 31st year of business, it is located in East Syracuse.



The Hoyts live in Manlius and have two daughters, Alyssa and Amanda, who are both out of school and employed by Microsoft and Chase Design respectively. They enjoy tennis and are active in the tennis community.

Neil has served on the Foundation’s Investment Committee since 2008 and is proud of the results we have been able to achieve for the Foundation. “I’ve made some very nice friends among the committee members, and I’m excited to follow in the footsteps of Eddie Green and Steve Miron who held the position prior to me,” he says.

Micaela Cooper

Micaela Cooper grew up in the small Jewish community of the Hudson Valley town of Catskill, attending Temple Israel, a Reform congregation. She attended Syracuse University, but then moved to Los Angeles. In 2002, however, she and her husband Jeff moved back to Syracuse to be closer to family. Micaela became an active member of Temple Concord where, in 2018, she celebrated becoming *bat mitzvah* a few months before her daughter, Joanna.

Micaela first heard of the Syracuse Community Hebrew School at its inception in 2015 when she enrolled JoJo in the fifth grade. “We were thrilled at the idea of a community Hebrew school involving our local Reform and Conservative synagogues. What a great way for kids to feel ties to the entire Jewish community,” she explains. Soon thereafter, she accepted the position as administrative co-director of the school and realized its potential “to be a great school and an amazing foundation for our community youth’s Jewish education.”

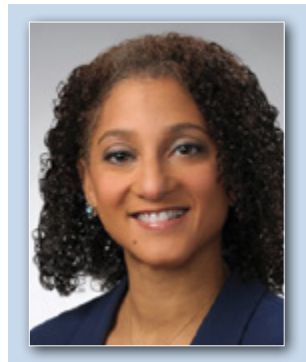
Believing that she could more easily effect change as a board member, Micaela resigned her position and joined the board. As she steps this year into the president’s role, she explains that she feels that some changes are needed. “I think it might be time not to reinvent the wheel but to repair some of the spokes. I share a vision with Ora Jezer (Education Director) and Andrea Waldman (Administrative Director) of a community Hebrew school that instills the love of learning Hebrew and *t’filot* and is accessible to all levels of learners. We see SCHS as a steppingstone to the Epstein School and other higher Jewish education, not merely as *b’nai mitzvah* preparation. Further, I’d like our school’s directors to have a board behind them that



is worthy of their dedication.”

She recognizes that 5782 will be another challenging year for SCHS, “but thanks to the generosity of the Jewish Federation and the Pomeranz, Shankman, Martin Foundation we are currently working out a moving and re-opening plan for our new home in space offered by the Syracuse Hebrew Day School and the JCC.” Looking ahead, Micaela says, “My hope for SCHS is that we will continue to enjoy the full engagement of our member synagogues’ clergy and that we are able to bring the synagogues’ lay leadership into our vision as well. I will be depending on an actively participating board of directors to increase fundraising efforts as well as our presence in the community. If we can increase and maintain all these strengths, SCHS will enjoy success on all fronts.”

Rebecca Resig



Rebecca Resig is the new president of the board of the Syracuse Hebrew Day School. She is the Director of Development at Syracuse University College of Arts and Sciences. A Buffalo native, she graduated from the University at Buffalo and moved to Central New York in 2001 with her fiancé, now husband, Jim. The Resigs are the proud parents of two SHDS alums. Rebecca became involved with the Day School when her children were enrolled there, helping with the auctions and the Celebration Gala. “I got to see the power of a day school education on a daily basis,” she says, “but none so powerful as the day my children became *b’nai mitzvah*.”

“I gladly took on the role of president of SHDS because of how important the school was to my kids,” she explains. “Their academic success is all due to the incredible education they got at SHDS. Their natural ability to pick up languages, their strength in all secular subjects and their interest in other cultures all come from their time at the Day School. Having to learn twice the information as the students in the public schools in the same amount of time teaches a student skills that will stick with them for life. Their time management is so much better than mine, and it all comes back to their years at the Day School. I want to make sure that SHDS is here for my grandkids.”

Rebecca is aware that the upcoming year will be a year of transition for SHDS. “There are changes coming, and we will be focused on making things seamless for our students,” she says. “COVID was a challenge for all schools, and I am hoping that we will see the return to some semblance of normal for our kids.”

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New Leadership (continued)

Hillel welcomes new staff members

Syracuse Hillel is excited to welcome three new staff members for 5782. Rabbi Sarah Noyovitz (Rabbi Noyo) will serve as Campus Rabbi. Ian Solow-Niederman will serve as Hillel’s Assistant Director, and Shaina Morrel will serve as the Springboard Fellow for Social Justice. They will join Executive Director Jillian Juni and Jewish Agency Israel Fellow Ronen Tzadok to complete a team dedicated to enhancing Jewish life on the Hill.

Rabbi Sarah Noyovitz grew up in southern New Hampshire, where she fell in love with Judaism. She graduated from Goucher College in Baltimore with a major in psychology and a minor in music. Goucher was also where Rabbi Noyo, as she likes to be called, first got involved with Hillel and Jewish text study. She went on to attend Hebrew College Rabbinical School in Newton, MA, graduating in 2020 with a Master of Arts in Jewish Studies and rabbinic ordination.

Rabbi Noyo did not originally plan to become a Hillel rabbi, opting instead to search for a pulpit. But the pandemic derailed her plans and she realized that she had enough life and rabbinic experience to

make working with undergraduates a mutually beneficial experience. “It sounded so exciting,” she explained. “Working with students during this formative time in their lives, away from their families for the first time and figuring out what Judaism means to them personally, is a really incredible privilege.”

Rabbi Noyo calls herself a “radically inclusive rabbi.” Asked to define that term, she explains that she considers Judaism to be a very big tent. “The Judaism I love has room for converts, folks from interfaith families, people in interfaith relationships, atheist Jews, secular Jews, people who want to intentionally fulfill Jewish law, people who are not Jews yet but want to explore Judaism, queer Jews, Ashkenazi, Mizrahi, and Sephardi Jews, just about everybody. I never want

somebody to feel they don’t belong in Judaism because of something else in their identity,” she says.

accessibility for that age group. How can Hillel reflect what they feel is important?” When she’s not working to make Judaism



Her goals for her rabbinate at SU center on radical inclusion and accessibility, specifically within the Jewish community but also in other life arenas. “I want to serve the students where they are, in their own Jewish community,” the rabbi explains. “I also serve the parents, but they are not the Syracuse Hillel ‘congregation.’ My rabbinate at Hillel offers me an incredible opportunity to learn what is important in terms of inclusion and

more radically inclusive and accessible, Rabbi Noyo can be found teaching Zumba classes over Zoom (and hopefully in person again very soon), playing guitar and writing music, and dreaming of having a bearded dragon.

Ian Solow-Niederman was born and raised in Denver, Colorado. He received a BA in communication, with minors in Jewish Studies and Religious Studies from the University of Colorado. As a student in Boulder, he was an active leader with Hillel, Alpha Epsilon Pi and the University. After college he cemented his love for Jewish communal work with time at AEPi’s Headquarters and the American Hebrew Academy. Over five years as the Regional Director for BBYO in Denver, he expanded membership, built partnerships and hosted International Convention 2019. He is currently pursuing a master’s degree in Jewish Professional Studies from the Spertus Institute. Ian is passionate about college basketball, Taylor Swift, food and Judaism.

Shaina Morrel grew up in Central Massachusetts before attending the George Washington University in Washington, DC where she studied International Affairs, focusing on culture and human rights. She grew up immersed in the Jewish community – URJ camp, NFTY, Heller High, and in college became deeply involved in GW Hillel and founded a chapter of SAEPi, a Jewish First, Greek Second sorority on campus. Along this journey, Shaina found and fostered her love for the intersections of Judaism and social justice, immersing in learning opportunities and spaces to explore these ideas. In her free time, she hikes, spends time with family, practices yoga and tries new vegetarian recipes. Shaina is excited to be a part of the Syracuse University and Hillel International communities, to learn with and from the students and create meaningful, inclusive and intersectional programming opportunities.

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Jewish Women's Philanthropy in Central New York

Philanthropy has been defined as voluntary action for the public good and incorporates a wide range of activities related to volunteerism and contributing money. In the past, local Jewish women's philanthropy involved caring for soldiers and their families during times of war, aiding widows, orphans and the poor and giving new immigrants the skills needed for success in their new lives. As time passed, women's philanthropic interests shifted to public interest and civic issues. Jewish women helped to shape society by volunteering their time, support and commitment to educational and social causes. As women moved into the workforce and higher education, their philanthropic commitment was often redirected to women's issues, particularly those involving women's health, childcare and issues of discrimination and sexism.

There are three national Jewish women's philanthropic organizations in Central New York today: the National Council of Jewish Women and its incorporated Hannah Solomon Society and the Federation's Lions of Judah and Pomegranate Society. Other women's groups, sadly, have left the scene, including Hadassah, Na'amat and ORT. Curious as to the role of women's philanthropy in the 21st century, the *JO* asked several women in our community to share their views anonymously on the topic.

Most but not all felt that there is definitely a place for women's philanthropy. "There is always a need for women's perspective and control over when and how to help make the world a better place," said one respondent. Another answered, "I believe that women have the opportunity to make change in our community. Historically, Central New York has had a strong group of Jewish women passionate about making a difference and giving back. It is crucial that we continue this legacy and show the next generation the importance of philanthropic work." A third said, "Women over time have proven to be agents for change. With our ability to focus on the issues and having the vision to see what can be, we are able to transform the lives of others. Through hands-on philanthropy and involvement in the most meaningful causes, we can positively impact the lives of those within our community and beyond, thereby insuring Jewish identity and continuity."

There was consensus that philanthropy should be about more than just giving money. One woman wrote, "I strongly believe that to engage women there should be a service component, an opportunity to volunteer and be involved in the cause that is being supported." Another replied, "Everyone



Photograph courtesy of Michael Moss

has a passion, and we must engage on every level possible to identify and unleash that power for good."

There was some disagreement about the separation of men's and women's giving, with a variety of thoughtful reasons put forth:

"For a philanthropy group to be successful, there has to be a sense of community and shared purpose. Groups should have a clear mission and foster a sense of ownership and fellowship among the members. I know that traditionally men's and women's groups have been segregated, although I'm not sure how relevant that is these days. I do like the idea of family groups and couples groups, as the needs and abilities of young families are different from couples without children (or with adult children)."

"I struggle with this question, because I do not think this has a 'one size fits all' answer. Individuals and families may have their own unique financial plans that are more conducive to a certain

type of philanthropic giving. That being said, women do see things differently than men. Men tend to focus more on brick-and-mortar philanthropy whereas women tend to be more passionate about the issues, focus more on providing programs and services, tend to ask more questions about those being impacted by these services and programs and require measurable outcomes for success. In the end, it doesn't matter from what pot of money the philanthropy is coming, but it does make a difference in the decision-making processes as to how these funds are allocated and the measurable steps taken to track success. It is for these reasons that separate and distinct women's philanthropy opportunities are critical."

"Women not only grow as a group when they are together, but we all can learn from each other which strengthens our own Jewish identity."

"Women need a place to be able to share their ideas. There's nothing wrong with partnering with a men's group,

or with not being involved in women's philanthropy, because a woman is working with a cause that is not led by women, but talking with other women can sharpen women's focus on certain issues."

There was also a difference of opinion as to whether Jewish philanthropy should be directed towards the Jewish community or the broader community:

"I believe that Jewish philanthropy can have the greatest impact on the community if it is targeted at the CNY community as a whole (not only the Jewish community)."

"I think local philanthropy should address broader issues for broader appeal."

"We should not necessarily restrict giving to Jewish causes because broader issues can impact and affect the quality of life for all, but the focus of our philanthropy should be Jewish causes. If not us, then who will carry the gauntlet?"

"At this point in time, I believe that our priority should be to Jewish causes and from there we can reach out to broader issues."

"We should address broader issues. Poverty and hunger need to be addressed before you ask about someone's culture or religion."

The Federation plans to convene women in the community who belong to one of the philanthropic groups, as well as others who are interested in the concept and realization of women's philanthropy. In the words of one respondent, "It is crucial that our women leaders are committed to connecting with one another but also give back financially to our community. They need to set an example for other women who want to be involved. I think it is a wonderful idea for women in CNY to generate and support local philanthropic projects. It is imperative to educate women on the necessities of the community. I think that there are opportunities for philanthropic events that focus on women's empowerment and there are also opportunities for philanthropic events that focus on family." The goals are to harness the power of sisterhood to share ideas, address needs and strengthen the community. ***The JO will continue to report on this topic and anyone interested in participating is urged to write to jo@jewishfederationcny.org.***

Jewish Cook of the Month



Mike Rosenbaum is a pre-sales engineer originally from Fayetteville, New York. He currently lives a post-pandemic nomadic life with his fiancée, Hilarie.

Where did you learn to cook?

I am mainly self-taught through trial and error, the Food Network, YouTube, blogs and cookbooks.

Why do you like to cook?

I like to try a lot of different kinds of foods, and the easiest way to do that is to just cook it myself. Food brings people together, and it brings me a lot of joy to prepare a good meal for my friends and family. Cooking is also very therapeutic and definitely helps me unwind after a stressful day or week.

What is your favorite dish to prepare?

Definitely a toss-up between fresh bagels, homemade pasta and homemade pizza. What can I say? I like gluten.

What is your favorite cooking secret/trick/hack/shortcut?

Swallow your pride, and use small kitchen appliances like a food processor and



KitchenAid mixer whenever you can.

Could you please share a favorite kosher recipe that isn't terribly complicated?

Rigatoni in Diavola Sauce is inspired by one of my favorite chefs, Missy Robbins. It is my favorite dish at her Williamsburg restaurant, Lilia.

Rigatoni in Diavola Sauce

Ingredients:

2 lbs. rigatoni pasta
 ½ cup olive oil
 20 garlic cloves, divided
 ¼ cup tomato paste
 2 28-oz. cans whole peeled San Marzano tomatoes, drained and crushed, 1 cup juice reserved
 1 tbsp. fennel seed
 1 tbsp. chopped fresh oregano, plus whole leaves for serving
 3-4 Calabrian peppers (or 1½-2 tbsp. crushed red pepper)
 Grated pecorino Romano cheese, for serving

Directions:

1. Cook pasta in a stockpot of well-salted boiling water for 2 to 3 minutes less than package directions for al dente. Drain pasta, reserving ¼ cup cooking liquid.
2. Heat oil in a Dutch oven over low. Add 10 garlic cloves, and increase heat to medium-low. Cook, stirring occasionally, until soft and slightly caramelized, 5 to 8 minutes. Thinly slice remaining garlic cloves, and add to oil. Cook, stirring occasionally, just until fragrant, about 1 minute.
3. Add tomato paste, and cook, stirring often, until a deep rich color develops and some oil has absorbed into the sauce, 3 to 5 minutes. Add tomatoes, reserved tomato juice, fennel, oregano and peppers. Cook, stirring often, about 30 minutes.
4. Add reserved cooking liquid to the sauce. Stir to combine. Add cooked pasta. Cook, tossing constantly, until heated through, 30 seconds to 1 minute. Sprinkle with cheese and oregano leaves, if desired.

A New Kosher Experience

Slab bacon, sliced bacon, savory breakfast sausage, beer brats, butter chicken, hot Italian sausage and deli ham slices – not a list of foods one generally associates with kosher products. But the entire list is not only kosher but vegan at Grass Fed, a kosher vegan butcher shop located at 980-982 Monroe Avenue in Rochester.

Rob Nipe, “The Butcher,” is a New Jersey native and former omnivore who sought to create “delicious cruelty-free versions of the meats he previously enjoyed.” Nora Rubel, “The Butcher’s Wife,” writes and teaches about food, culture and religion at the University of Rochester and loves to cook and eat. She recognizes “the cultural and nostalgic connection folks have to the foods they grow up with” and “is excited to help them feel those connections in a cruelty-free way.”

GrassFed opened to the public in late June. They produce small-batch, handcrafted vegan meats from plant-based ingredients. Their pastrami, for example, contains vital wheat gluten, chickpea flour, onion powder, garlic powder, mustard powder, brown sugar, black pepper, beet powder, vegan worcester sauce, liquid smoke, soy sauce, cloves, allspice, coriander, smoked paprika,



olive oil and sea salt. Chicken cutlets are made from vital wheat gluten, tofu, vegan chicken broth, miso paste, canola oil, garlic powder, onion powder, sea salt and poultry seasoning.

“There are a lot of reasons to limit your consumption of meat—concerns for your health, animal cruelty, the environment,” their website www.grassfedrochester.com declares, but “we don’t think you need to compromise taste for being good and doing good. We bring you delicious. That’s it. What we do is make it easy for you to continue cooking meals you love with cruelty-free products that you’ll feel good about eating.”

For now, Grass Fed is only a retail establishment, though Rob and Nora hope to offer lunch service in the near future. The store is open Sundays from 12-4pm and Monday through Thursday 12-6pm. Thanks to Grass Fed, bacon wrapped dates and Philly cheese steaks can be on your menu in the new year, delicious, vegan and totally kosher.

A New Culinary Journey

by Diane Sacks

Food is intimately related to memories. As Sisterhood members celebrated Temple Concord’s 180th anniversary, they reminisced about the many life cycle events they had shared there and the many dishes that were part of the celebrations. Thus was born the idea for *A Culinary History of Temple Concord*.

A Culinary History Committee, chaired by Eleanor Feitler with members Sandy Gingold, Ellyn Roloff and Bonnie Leff, requested that current and former members and visitors to Temple Concord submit recipes, stories, anecdotes and pictures to help capture the mood, taste and feel of the past. “Our ancestors made it through much adversity, and we usually celebrate these victories with stories and feasts,” said the committee members. “Let’s all stay safe, survive and then thrive through our current challenges and look to our past for inspiration.”

The recipes and remembrances poured in. Following is a delightful example, with a reminiscence, from Barbara Sutton. “My mother-in-law, Selma Phillips, whom everyone at Temple called Aunt Selma, was famous (at least in her family) for her Puffed Rice. Selma was one of five sisters and two brothers, one of whom was Hiram Weisberg, a guiding light and benefactor of the Temple. On a typical Friday night, it seemed that half the congregation was related to Selma. She loved serving congregants coffee at the *Oneg*, sitting at the long table, pouring from a huge silver urn, getting the “shtuss” from everyone she served. It was hard getting her to leave while there was still someone to talk to.”

Selma Phillips’ Puffed Rice


Ingredients: 1 cup molasses, ¼ cup sugar, ¼ cup brown sugar, 1 tablespoon butter and a large box of puffed rice.

Directions: Boil molasses and both sugars. Add butter. Test mixture in cold water until it forms a ball. Heat a large box of puffed rice in a 350 degree oven until it’s puffed up. Mix and chill on a greased sheet. Cut up into squares.



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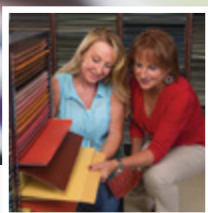
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Jewish News From Around The World



US ambassador to Israel: Tom Nides. Former Deputy Secretary of State Nides, praised for his deep commitment to the Israel-US alliance, has been named US Ambassador to Israel. His predecessor, Dr. Michael Oren, says Nides will be a “blessing” to Israel. <https://www.israelhayom.com/2021/06/16/bidens-pick-for-ambassador-to-israel-tom-nides/>

Israeli companies on Wall Street worth \$300 billion. There are now 85 Israeli companies traded on the Nasdaq and NY Stock Exchange. Their combined worth is over \$300 billion – up 50% since Jan 2021. <https://www.calcalistech.com/ctech/articles/0,7340,L-3910186,00.html>

Diagnosing cancer in 17 European countries. Unilabs, one of Europe’s largest diagnostics companies, is to implement the AI-based cancer diagnostic software from Israel’s Ibx Medical Analytics. The initial rollout will begin in Sweden and then continue to 16 more European countries. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/swiss-diagnostic-firm-unilabs-to-use-ibx-cancer-detecting-tech-in-labs/>

New Israeli TV series. Netflix has purchased nine episodes of the new Israeli suspense series “Hit and Run.” It is Netflix’s first brand new Israeli series, having previously only hosted proven hits. Meanwhile Israel’s hit series *Fauda* has been dubbed into Farsi by London based Manoto TV, which reaches 30% of households in Iran. <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/310316>

The world’s thinnest technology. Researchers at Tel Aviv University have engineered the thinnest piece of technology - layers of Boron and Nitrogen just two atoms thick. Electricity causes the layers to slide and can be used to control advanced electronic devices. <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/372/6549/1462>

Female doctor and paratrooper. Dr. Nofit Shmuel is only the second woman to serve as a combat doctor in the IDF and the first in the Paratroopers division. There’s no such thing as ‘limits,’ she says. “Limits are only in your head, and if you get rid of them there, you’ll continue to move ahead without anything stopping you.” <https://www.israelhayom.com/2021/06/23/a-red-beret-and-a-stethoscope/>

Water from the air to the Navajo Nation. Israel’s Watergen has installed a GEN-M water from the air generator in the Hard Rock community of the Navajo Nation. The pilot project, when extended, will help many of the 10,000 families across Navajo Nation who lack access to running water. <https://www.jns.org/coalition-brings-israeli-water-technology-to-hard-rock-community-in-navajo-nation/>

Israeli NGO “Innovation: Africa” has provided vaccines, light, solar power and water to remote African villages. Recently, they provided the 3,200 residents of Majengo, Tanzania with clean running water for the first time. <https://unitedwithisrael.org/watch-tanzanians-celebrate-clean-drinking-water-from-israeli-ngo/>

Global Jewish Pen Pal Program. The Global Jewish Pen Pal Program connects Jews from all over the world. Pen pals can communicate through letters, emails, video calls or messaging. All ages are welcome and there is no cost to participate. Pen pals are matched with someone of a similar age from a different country. The program also hosts online events for participants. www.globaljewishpenpalprogram.com

Israel’s new female pilots. 62 women graduated from the IAF pilots’ course. Most became navigators, helicopter pilots, transport pilots or flight deck

operators. FIVE became combat pilots.

<https://www.israelhayom.com/2021/06/22/new-pilots-course-grad-becomes-5th-woman-to-serve-as-iaf-fighter-pilot/>

Promoting Kibbutz women leaders. The Israeli Kibbutz Movement has established a training course, “The Academy for Future CEOs,” to help women reach key positions and influence in the kibbutz movement and kibbutz industries and to promote their integration into key positions in Israeli society at large. <https://www.israel21c.org/giving-women-an-extra-leadership-edge-on-the-kibbutz/>

Buying a piece of the rock. Jews moving to Israel and seriously considering it are rushing to purchase property in Israel. Realtors say that the market has gone crazy. *Nefesh B’Nefesh* launched a new institute for aliya, saying that applications to make aliya are more than double what they were in 2019. <https://www.jns.org/owning-a-piece-of-the-rock-post-covid-westerners-snap-up-israeli-property/>

Former Druze MK is US emissary. Gadeer Kamal-Mreeh, the first female Druze MK (member of Israel’s parliament) is the Jewish Agency’s new senior *shlichah* (emissary). She will represent Israel in Washington and help train and provide support to Israel advocates on campus. <https://www.jns.org/former-druze-mk-appointed-emissary-to-washington-north-american-campuses/>

Eliminating malaria in Africa. Israel’s ZzappMalaria uses AI to combat malaria. It has won first place and \$3 million in the IBM Watson AI XPRIZE Competition. ZzappMalaria also won the People’s Choice Award as the “Most Inspiring Team.” It is running trials in Ghana, Tanzania, and Zanzibar. <https://nocamels.com/2021/06/israeli-zzapp-malaria-wins-ibm-watson-ai-xprize/>

Talking to your plants. Israel’s InnerPlant is a pioneer of living crop sensors. Plants have inherent defense mechanisms that generate signals when thirsty, low in nutrients or attacked by pests or disease. InnerPlant adds a safe protein to the plant so that these signals can be seen visually on smartphones

and even by satellites. <https://jewishbusinessnews.com/2021/06/18/shely-aronov-completes-a-5-65-million-pre-seed-round-for-innerplant/>

Orthodox Jews make baseball history. Steimetz became the first known Orthodox Jewish player drafted by a major league team, after he was selected 77th overall by the Arizona Diamondbacks. Shortly thereafter, the Washington Nationals’ final, 20th-round pick in the major league draft, Elie Kligman, became the second Orthodox Jewish player selected by an MLB team. A star pitcher and power hitter at Cimarron-Memorial High School in Las Vegas, Kligman has pledged to stick to his faith even if he makes it to the majors, saying “my goal is to become the first Shabbos observant player in Major League Baseball.” <https://www.algemeiner.com/2021/07/13/nats-pick-makes-elie-kligman-second-orthodox-jew-drafted-to-major-league-baseball-in-two-days/>

Mayo Clinic to bring Israeli AI to US surgical rooms. Mayo Clinic is partnering Israeli-founded Theator to bring its artificial intelligence and computer vision technologies to surgical rooms in the US. Theator will support Mayo’s urologists and gynecologists with pre-op preparation and post-op debriefing. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-founded-theator-to-work-with-mayo-clinic-to-bring-ai-to-surgical-rooms/>

Medical cooperation with UAE. Israel’s Sheba Medical Center has signed two agreements with health authorities in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. They cover medical research and medical tourism. Sheba is currently treating 300 UAE diabetics high blood pressure patients both in Israel and with telemedicine. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYLN3zE2RIA>

Six-way kidney transplant includes UAE couple. For the first time, an Israeli kidney exchange has included patients in the UAE. Shani at Sheba gave her kidney to a woman in Abu Dhabi whose daughter gave her kidney to a woman in Haifa whose husband donated his kidney to Shani’s mother. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/3-women-receive-kidneys-in-israel-uae-organ-exchange-1st-with-arab-state/>

KlezFest CNY Cancelled for 2021

The Syracuse Jewish Music & Cultural Festival (JMAC), which originated as KlezFest, was all set to return this year with a new name: KlezFest CNY. The festival was returning to its Klezmer music roots. Unfortunately, with COVID returning with new variants, holding a festival did not seem wise, so with sadness, the sponsors decided to cancel it, just as they did last year.



Violinist, composer, filmmaker, writer, photographer and playwright Yale Strom.

KlezFest originated in Syracuse in 1999 under the dedicated leadership of Sid Lipton and Mimi Weiner. It started out in Armory Square, then moved to Clinton Square and ultimately to the Jewish Community Center campus. It was always a special event.

Klezmer music is an instrumental musical tradition first originating in Central and Eastern Europe. Klezmer music is a blend of dance tunes, ritual melodies and virtuosic improvisations and has evolved over time to include traditional and experimental forms of the genre. Syracuse's KlezFest was traditionally a place to meet and reconnect with friends and neighbors and share the spirit of "community."

KlezFest CNY was scheduled to showcase a great lineup of local and national acts. Latin Grammy Award-winning artist, author, activist, educator and PJ Library musician Mister G (Ben Gundersheimer) was to have made his KlezFest debut. A graduate of Amherst College, Mister G was hailed as "a bilingual rock star" by the *Washington Post*. He was originally dubbed Mister G by his young students while pursuing a Master of Education degree. Inspired by his 4th-grade students, he began writing the songs that would comprise his debut family album while working as a classroom teacher. More than a decade later, Mister G has released 12 albums of original, multicultural music and received numerous accolades including a Latin Grammy Award and five Parents' Choice Gold Awards. He tours internationally headlining performing arts centers, festivals and theaters.

This year's other KlezFest national act was to have been Yale Strom and Hot Pstromi. **Yale Strom** is a violinist, composer, filmmaker, writer, photographer and playwright. He's

also a pioneer among revivalists in conducting extensive field research in Central and Eastern Europe and the Balkans among the Jewish and Roma communities. Initially, his work focused primarily on the use and performance of klezmer music among these two groups. Gradually, his focus increased to examining all aspects of their culture. Yale Strom & Hot Pstromi is a unique klezmer/Roma ensemble that plays traditional Yiddish/Klezmer tunes



Latin Grammy Award-winning artist Mister G (Ben Gundersheimer).



The Keyna Hora Klezmer Band performing at the JCC in 2019.

along with Roma tunes. Since 1982, Strom has been composing his own New Jewish music, blending klezmer with Khasidic nigunim, Roma, jazz, classical, Balkan and Sephardic sounds. His compositions range from quartets to symphonies, and he is one of the only top composers of Jewish music to carry on the tradition of writing original songs, with Yiddish lyrics, about humanitarian and social issues. Strom was the first klezmer musician to perform at the United Nations General Assembly.

The well-known and beloved local Keyna Hora Klezmer Band was also

scheduled to take the KlezFest stage. Their repertoire includes traditional Jewish and Yiddish music. The band's fun and energetic performances have a way of getting the audience on their feet and dancing.

The many wonderful activities and the unique and toe-tapping music will be sorely missed this year. Our longing for an end to the pandemic surely includes a deep longing for a return to one of Central New York's premier Jewish celebrations.

Scenes from Camp

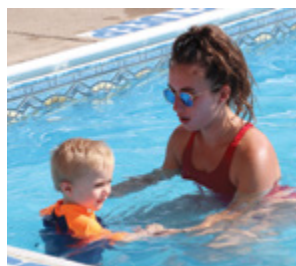
With the relaxing of COVID-19 restrictions at the start of this summer, things finally began to feel more normal again for the Sam Pomeranz Jewish Community Center's summer camp. Hundreds of campers ranging in age from infants to school-age children—including many new faces—descended upon the JCC campus from June 28 – August 20 for the JCC's Camp Joe and Lynne Romano. After last year's "pandemic summer," the children were excited to get back to being children again. "We were extremely pleased this summer to offer more offsite specialty camps for school-age children, schedule several outdoor field trips to public places after not offering any last summer and to bring back our teen Counselor in Training (CIT) and Camp Aide programs," said Pamela Ranieri, JCC director of children's programming. From arts and crafts, games and swimming to water fun and more, there were plenty of laughs and excitement to go around for all JCC campers.



JCC Camp Romano counselor Thomas Chaddock helps school-age camper Violet Clark wash her hands before beginning the camp day.



JCC school-age campers playing gaga or Israeli dodgeball on the JCC's front lawn.



Early childhood camper Cayden Cote during a swim lesson with Red Cross-certified lifeguard Emilia Patalita.



JCC school-age campers in Pickleball Camp get a crash course in the sport while working on their volleying skills.

Security Planning for the New Year

Many may feel that the early observance of the High Holidays this year has left them with little time for preparation, but for Jewish institutions concerned about security, preparation is always at the forefront of their planning. This year is no exception. Security awareness and security consciousness is an integral part and priority in all service arrangements, with the goal of keeping places of worship open and welcoming during the steady stream of celebration that is unique to September in 5782.

Working with Susan DeMari, security coordinator, as well as local law enforcement personnel, local synagogues have trained ushers and greeters and increased situational awareness to enhance levels of security while maintaining a comfortable and secure worship environment. Appropriate security measures serve two purposes: to communicate a message of security consciousness and preparedness to congregants and guests and to project an image of a hardened target which serves as a deterrent to those who would do harm.

Susan works closely with SCN, the Secure Community Network, the official homeland security and safety initiative of the organized Jewish community in

North America. Founded in 2004, under the auspices of the Jewish Federations of North America and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, SCN serves as the central organization dedicated exclusively to the safety and security of the American Jewish community, working across 146 federations, 50 partner organizations, over 300 independent communities as well as with other partners in the public, private, non-profit and academic sectors.

Susan works to provide our local agencies and organizations with best practices from SCN, synagogue movements, federations, the Anti-Defamation League and others to provide the resource support for security planning. She ensures that the Jewish community stays in close contact with local law enforcement authorities and includes them in security planning. Melissa Harkavy, executive director of Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevre Shas, said, "During the pandemic, CBS-CS established a special security task force to take advantage of the lull in building use. We are very grateful for the assistance and leadership from Sue DeMari and the Federation. With their help, we have been able to harden our building and upgrade our procedures, while strengthening our relationship with law enforcement." Barbara Simon, Temple Adath Yeshurun's executive director, said, "A common theme through all the security webinars I've attended is the importance of developing a relationship with local law enforcement. At TAY, we feel very fortunate that Susan has so successfully facilitated this. It's reassuring to me knowing that I can call Susan 24/7 and she's always there to respond to our security needs."

Michael Balanoff, Federation President/CEO observed, "Helping to keep our community safe in a time of heightened antisemitism and working to ensure the safety, security and resiliency of our Jewish community, in coordination with our local law enforcement partners, is another example of how Federation serves the community."

A New Office for the New Year

The Pinsky Law Group represents over 500 fire districts, fire departments and emergency medical service agencies and providers, including towns, villages and non-profit corporations throughout the state. Brad Pinsky, the firm's head, knows first-hand what his clients' work entails. He served for three and a half years as chief of the Manlius Fire Department and for almost three decades as a firefighter. He lectures nationally and is the author of the *Fire Department Law & Management Resource Manual* and the *Fire Service Secretary & Treasurer Manual* and hosts numerous conferences for emergency service entities.

A native Central New Yorker, Brad lives with his family in Manlius. He did his undergraduate work at Brandeis University, has a J.D. degree from Tulane University Law School and a master's degree in health administration from the Tulane School of Public Health. Brad started working on ambulances while in Boston and then joined the DeWitt Fire Department. "The fire/EMS



service is addicting," he says, so he continued to volunteer throughout law school in New Orleans where he served as director of the ambulance service. He has been a proud member of the Manlius Fire Department for more than 19 years, adding, "There is simply no experience as exhilarating and rewarding as volunteering for your local fire department."

In addition to his fire department duties, Brad grew a successful law practice to serve "this most dedicated group of individuals." In building a new office at 4311 East Genesee Street in DeWitt, Brad and his wife Nicole, who is the office manager of the firm, wanted "to construct an office which displays the pride we have in the law firm, our clients, our town and most importantly, our family name."

Smart Alec Support



Smart Alec Support is a premium digital concierge service, a one-stop-shop for media and technology needs. Alec Erlebacher is the owner-operator of the company, which offers customizable support, training and consultation for home and business customers. "We strive to add a trusted human element for our clients so you can feel relieved to know that whatever your needs are, we will be here to help you get the job done right,"

says Alec, a native Central New Yorker and Day School alum. He opened his business here because "Syracuse is a beautiful and easy-to-get-around city filled with a wonderful community of people I love. I grew up here and have a family I wanted to be close to."

Alec has a bachelor's degree in media studies with a concentration in video production from the University at Buffalo and a master's degree in photography from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications. He worked as a studio manager and photographer's assistant for *National Geographic* photographer Stephen Wilkes and currently teaches part-time at Newhouse.

The list of services he offers is long and includes portraiture, workstation upgrades, digital asset management and backup, archival digitization and storage, wifi/network setup, website development and product management. "In short," he says, "I can teach and help people navigate the world of computers and technology. I genuinely enjoy helping others improve their workflow and solve various pain points or problems they encounter with their business."



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Grandchildren of Holocaust Survivors Offer Classroom Presentations

3GNY is an educational non-profit organization that trains grandchildren of Holocaust survivors to tell their family stories to students and community groups. Since 2010, speakers have presented to more than 30,000 students and adults. Dave Reckess is the executive director of 3GNY - Descendants of Holocaust Survivors. He explains how his involvement began: “Two years ago, my grandmother visited a middle school class to tell students about her experiences surviving the Holocaust. She told me how impressed she was with the students’ empathy, with the way her story resonated. She knew her testimony had impacted them. My grandmother passed away just a few months later. Soon afterwards, I discovered 3GNY and their WEDU (WeEducate) program. Learning alongside other 3Gs, or third-generation descendants of survivors, I crafted a presentation for school audiences about my grandmother’s life before, during and after the Holocaust.”



Dave explains that “studies show that students who receive Holocaust education are more tolerant and comfortable with people of different races and backgrounds. They’re more willing to challenge incorrect or biased information and are more likely to be upstanders. This is what drives 3GNY’s 350 volunteer speakers to share their family stories. It’s what my grandmother saw in that middle school class. And it’s what I strive for in carrying on her legacy.” This past spring, Dave visited local classrooms, some virtually and some in-person, to share his story with them. “For students, my story brought their text-based history lessons to life,” he recounts.

“They peppered me with questions about what my grandmother thought or felt at the time. I knew I had built a personal connection for them to the Holocaust.”

As the 2021-2022 school year begins, 3GNY’s volunteer speakers are eager to provide Central New York students with personal, relevant Holocaust education by sharing their family stories. 3GNY’s guest-speaker presentations are offered at no cost to schools or teachers. **Members of the community are invited to visit www.3gny.org/wedu or email [Dave at dreckess@3gnewyork.org](mailto:dreckess@3gnewyork.org) to learn more about the program or to request a speaker.**

Syracuse Jewish Family Service’s Brain Health Programs for Older Adults

Syracuse Jewish Family Service at Menorah Park is now enrolling participants in their ongoing M-Power U learning community for early memory loss. The programs are geared to older adults wishing to support brain health.

M-Power U is a social program using fun, stimulating and creative activities to promote well-being and independence for people who are experiencing mild memory loss, mild cognitive impairment or early-stage dementia (no diagnosis required). Different “communities” on different days feature varied approaches and focus, but all emphasize multidimensional wellbeing. Many people choose to attend more than one of the following programs:

M-Power U: Arts and Minds Community – Fridays, 9:30 am – 1:30 pm (pre-screening required) – emphasizes creative self-expression, skill building, memory enhancement, emotional processing and communication through the arts. No prior experience with or talent in the arts is required. Participants engage in creative writing, painting, music, movement and more, in a peer group setting.

M-Power U: Parkinson’s Community – Wednesdays, 10:30 am to 1:30 pm (pre-screening required) – to launch in September 2021. The new MPU Parkinson’s will serve the needs of people affected by Parkinson’s who are experiencing or are concerned about cognitive changes and early memory loss. MPU-PD empowers them to take charge of their physical, emotional, and cognitive health, to mitigate the impact of early cognitive changes and improve their overall wellness.

In addition to these brain health programs, SJFS offers a variety of other programs including:

AgeWise Solutions Care Management – assists individuals and families to cope with the changes and challenges of aging. Our Aging Life Care Professionals™ help with assessment and referral, care planning, service access and coordination, crisis management and ongoing follow-up, family liaison

and dynamics, financial affairs, bills and paperwork, basic errand services and transportation. Fees are on a sliding scale thanks to support from charitable funders.

For those planning for future needs rather than solving current concerns, AgeWise Planning Advisors provides a full 3-hour workup that yields an individualized action plan to guide the journey to meet later life goals, with interim consultations and annual action plan updates on the model of a financial planner.

AgeWise Dementia Consultation/Coaching in person, by phone and/or by email also includes a 3-hour intake/workup and a personalized care plan updated annually or more frequently as needed, geared to providing ongoing support for the caregiver/family of a person with dementia.

PEARLS (Program to Encourage Active Rewarding Lives) – is an evidence-based, in-home counseling program to screen and assist adults over 60 with symptoms of depression, empowering them to reach higher quality of life. Free to Onondaga County residents and now enrolling for fall admission.

Supportive services available to family members and other care partners include counseling, coaching and care management as well as in-home activity companions.

To schedule an enrollment assessment, or to learn more about becoming a participant or volunteer, contact Ellen Somers, SJFS Assistant Director at 315-446-9111, ext. 225, or via email at somerse@sjfs.org.

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A New Home for the New Year

The Syracuse Community Hebrew School is very excited to be in a new space for 5782. The Syracuse Hebrew Day School and the Pomeranz Jewish Community Center are providing space for classes which will begin in October and go through May, with a break in December.

“After years of wandering, we hope that we have at last found a home for years to come,” says the school’s administrative director, Andrea Waldman. The SCHS was created in 2014 with a grant from the Federation’s Community Program Fund. It is designed as an inclusive setting for students in grades 3-7. Students acquire a quality t’filah-based Hebrew education and are challenged to explore a deeper and more personal understanding of prayer. The school fosters a sense of Jewish community throughout the Greater Syracuse area. Graduates are prepared to lead and participate in services in synagogue and at home.

Over the past seven years, the school has evolved to best meet the needs of its students. As a result, even when the pandemic shut down in-person learning, students at SCHS continued to attend classes virtually. Its curriculum is



prayer-based and t’filah is taught so that students become familiar with the prayers and their meaning as used in their home synagogues. The school developed its own color-coded siddur, making its debut this year, so that prayer is both communal and individualized.

Technology plays a big role at SCHS and the school plans to continue to offer remote access for those families that choose to stay on-line or who live at a great distance from the school. Even though everyone’s hope is to be in-person this year, the school is taking its cues from the CDC as well as surrounding schools, member synagogues and building requirements. Whether the school is in-person or on-line, a get-together is being coordinated with the Epstein School before the year starts. Aligning with the Epstein School and providing a continuity of Jewish education from middle through high school is an important goal of the Syracuse Community Hebrew School.

Epstein School Celebrates 5782 with “Back to Epstein Bash”

After more than a year of exclusively remote learning, the Rabbi Jacob H. Epstein School of Jewish Studies will host an in-person *Back to Epstein Bash* on September 14. This event, made possible by a Community Program Fund grant from the Jewish Federation of Central New York, will be a much larger celebration than is typical for the Epstein School’s opening night festivities. Students in grades 7-12 will enjoy dinner and ice cream while learning with community clergy about the *Shmita* year that began with *Rosh Hashanah*. After faculty introduce the year’s core courses, students will attend an elective round robin and rank their elective choices for the fall term.

As this event falls during the *Yamim Noraim* (Days of Awe), and as *tzedakah* is a fundamental aspect of both this season and of the Epstein School’s mission, community partners will highlight opportunities for student *gemilut chasadim/tikkun olam* projects for which

they may accrue community service hours during the 5782 school year. In addition to spending time with friends, new and familiar, students will participate in games for prizes. All Central New York Jewish students in grades 7-12 are welcome and current Epstein students are encouraged to bring a friend.

Classes for the fall term begin Tuesday, October 5 at Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevre Shas. First-hour core courses include Torah; The *Shmita* Year: Jewish Sustainability; Ethical Dilemmas and Jewish History. Class choices for the second hour include *The Jewish Lens*, which culminates in submissions to the international photography competition where Epstein students have achieved special mention for the last two consecutive years; Modern Hebrew and Israel: Toward a Mature Engagement.

Students register at EpsteinCNY.org. For more information, email Epstein’s head of school, Aaron Spitzer, at EpsteinCNY@gmail.com.

SHDS Enrollment Growth Continues

by Laura Lavine

For the third consecutive year, the Syracuse Hebrew Day School kindergarten class will have more students than in recent memory. With fourteen youngsters expected in September, this is the largest class in years.


The Day School’s continued growth is attributable to a number of variables including its superior general/secular education, Hebrew and Jewish studies instruction, art and music including private lessons, physical education, a beautiful library, updated technology, small class sizes, new additions to faculty and greater financial stability.

I am especially pleased to note the families that are continuing at SHDS even after public schools are returning to somewhat normal operations. Some

families enrolled their children at SHDS because we opened for full-time, in-person instruction in September of 2020. They are staying because they love the education that their children are receiving.

This continues to be a challenging time for families as they decide how to educate their children. SHDS provides a safe environment allowing teachers to focus on students and their learning. In addition, we are poised to shift to online learning on very short notice if in-person instruction is not possible.

Now in its 61st year and with more than a year of COVID challenges overcome, the Day School has a well-earned reputation for educational excellence. **For information about the Day School, call 315-446-1900.**



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New Initiative for the New Year at CBS-CS

by Joanne Villegas

Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas created a new position on its Board of Trustees for the coming year. Bob Tornberg, who previously served as the adult learning vice-president, was elected to serve another term as a Board member and agreed to take on an important task: Board member training and development. Bob will be facilitating an orientation for all Board of Trustee members at the end of August and presenting additional brief topics at subsequent Board meetings.

As Bob explains, “These are challenging times. With COVID as a backdrop to everything, Jewish organizations throughout the country face financial and demographic issues. They are also finding that fewer and fewer people have the capacity to volunteer because of their very complicated lives. Such challenges require visionary leadership. In the sessions we are developing for the coming year, we hope to educate and motivate new leadership to take up the challenges at CBS-CS and create an exciting future for Jewish life in our congregation and in the community.”

Bob is a master teacher who has more than 40 years of experience in the administration of Jewish organizations. He teaches program evaluation at Syracuse University’s School of Education and has consulted with a variety of non-profit organizations. Bob has served in leadership positions at several national organizations.

In addition to working with the Board of Trustees, Bob will be leading an ongoing Congregational Leadership Program. This program will take place one evening per month during 2021 - 2022 and is open to all members of CBS-CS.

“It has been a while since we have made a concerted effort to encourage members to get involved in congregational leadership in a formal way. So, for the new year, we have developed a new initiative to prepare new leaders for CBS-CS. Monthly sessions over the course of the year will focus on the values, history and structure of our synagogue and the Syracuse community. We will look at Jewish texts about leadership in the context of the day-to-day efforts it takes to make CBS-CS the wonderful place it is. We will learn a lot, laugh a lot, and, hopefully, motivate participants to want to join in making CBS-CS even better in the future,” Bob said.

TAY HAZAK Enjoys a Return to Getting Together



Joanne Greenhouse, Arlee Baskin, Herb Goldman, Deb Goldman, JoAnn Grower and Eileen Blair were among the nearly twenty HAZAK members from Temple Adath Yeshurun who braved the summer heat to attend the first gathering held since the pandemic began and paused HAZAK’s regular monthly events. At Ryder Park, the group enjoyed music of the 60s and 70s by The Strangers.

Temple Concord Looks Ahead

After a year of transitions, Temple Concord is looking ahead to the year 5782. The continued clergy leadership of Cantor Kari Siegel Eglash and the arrival of interim Rabbi David Katz, who will serve for two years, are bright lights for Concord’s future, as the Temple continues to advance the sale of its building.

Particularly exciting is the completion of Concord’s five-year strategic plan: *Temple Concord 2026*. This work, which began in February, was co-facilitated by a congregant and a strategic planning professional and led by a core committee of diverse Concord members. With input from the congregation, clergy, staff and lay leadership, the action-oriented plan articulates a 2026 vision and mission, identifies strategies and sets measurable



objectives for the plan’s first several years. Significantly, it defines nine projects to be undertaken in the first year to advance the five-year vision. The plan was finalized in August, and the projects launch in October.

“Rumors about Temple Concord’s decline are simply false,” says Sally Cutler, Concord’s immediate past president. She

explained that the limited use of the Temple building during the pandemic may have given a wrong impression. “In fact,” she pointed out, “service attendance rose in our virtual format, as did member volunteer activity.” The past year also saw the step-by-step return of in-person gatherings as the pandemic eased, owing to the life-saving vaccines.

Of special note is that the harvest from the Concord Garden, this year in collaboration with and now located at Temple Adath Yeshurun, will continue to supply fresh produce through the fall to the Food Center at 324 University Avenue, where Concord is now in full partnership with University United Methodist and Grace Episcopal churches.

Nine Temple Concord *b’nai mitzvah* will be celebrated in 5782, between

September and June, and Concord’s Religious School opens shortly after the High Holy Days. Concord’s well-known Regina F. Goldenberg Cultural Series will present author talks throughout the year, featuring eight hot-off-the-presses books promoted by the Jewish Book Council, plus a new book by Concord’s own Shana Kushner Gadarian, Associate Professor and Chair of Political Science in SU’s Maxwell School, named a 2021 Carnegie Fellow.

Concord president Jeff Lefkowicz notes, “As Syracuse’s Reform congregation, Temple Concord continues its long history of adding to Syracuse’s diverse Jewish community. Whether meeting virtually or in person, we welcome all to worship, learn, celebrate, comfort and socialize.”

BeWell in Later Life Fund Established

Syracuse Jewish Family Service Director Judith Huober is “moving but not leaving,” transitioning to work remotely and through in-person residencies to direct SJFS caregiver support project and provide clinical mental health counseling services. “It has been the honor of my life to lead SJFS during ten years of intense turmoil and re-stabilization,” explained Huober. “What I’ve learned and helped SJFS to become leaves me personally and professionally fulfilled, as well as confident in SJFS’s capacity to grow and adapt to the future needs of our community.”



To support what she hopes will be her legacy at SJFS, Huober is committing \$25,000 to create an annual stipend for one graduate intern “who recognizes the potential for a positive multidimensional view of aging to improve the quality of life for individuals and families across the life-cycle, to create elder-friendly communities and to develop public policy that mitigates the effects of structural ageism on citizens of all ages.” Each intern will design and execute a capstone project aimed at engaging members of the community in an opportunity to enlarge their view of aging as a stage of life with value and meaning; for example, a pop-up

intergenerational arts-based or other in-person experience, a class or series of classes, a public performance or exhibit, or design/execution of an advocacy campaign aiming at draft legislation or other policy change.

The fund has been established at the Jewish Community Foundation of Central New York. The community is asked to express its support of the fund’s goals by adding to the BeWell in Later Life Scholarship Fund. Contributions may be sent to the Foundation at 5655 Thompson Road, DeWitt, NY 13214, indicating BeWell in the memo line.

Jackie Kassel Retires After Four Decades of Teaching

Jackie Kassel taught at the Syracuse Hebrew Day School for over forty years. The Day School’s current head, Laura Lavine, summed up her legacy: “Jackie Kassel’s decades of teaching at the Syracuse Hebrew Day School have positively affected the education and lives of countless students. She will long be remembered for her dedicated service to the Day School community.”



The *JO* asked Jackie to reflect on her professional career and on her new life that begins with 5782. Here are her words:

“It was the week before Labor Day, 1980. My husband Neil had met Nate Sorkin, the principal of the Max Gilbert Hebrew Academy, at minyan at Temple Beth El. Part of their conversation included Nate’s search for a general studies teacher. Did Neil know anyone? I interviewed with both Nate and board member Ruth Curtis and accepted the position of a combined 5/6 general studies teacher.

With a four-year-old and a one-year-old at home, it truly was a time of change for our family. But I was looking forward to the opportunity to return to teaching. Lara was already at The Growing Place and Jeremy would be there, too. Because it was part-time, beginning at noon, Jeremy would be sleeping anyway. So no guilt there!

In September of 1981, the day school moved from Temple Adath to its current home at the Jewish Community Center, the former Genesee Hills Elementary School. We were all excited to be in a school building with all that it had to offer: a library, a lunch room and even a playground. In those early years, we developed and expanded our curriculum, and our first computer center was set up in what is now the nurse’s office. It was there that I first learned about programming and floppy disks. The school was well on its way to becoming a prominent center of elementary education, providing a dual curriculum and a superior education to its students.

One of the biggest changes I have seen, not surprisingly, has been the advance of technology in education. All our classrooms have Viewsonic devices, allowing access to thousands of teaching

tools. Each student has their own assigned tablet or laptop, and they know how to use them. But not to worry! These tools are meant to enhance, not replace, the role of individualized instruction we hold so dear.

Looking back, there are so many stories to tell: ones that make me laugh, ones that make me cry, and those that are just good memories. My years at the Day School have been a forty-one-year career I never wanted to change. I have had the opportunity to work with unparalleled colleagues, many of whom are close friends. I know there are lives I have touched and positive differences I have made in students’ lives. It’s a wonderful feeling of accomplishment.

But what’s next? I’ve been practicing for retirement for a few years now. I play Mahjong weekly and am in a book club. I “play” golf, dine monthly with other former teachers, take long walks and, of course, “go to lunch.” I love to read, bake and travel (though not in the last year). I’m hoping to continue tutoring, as I love working one-on-one with students and I will eventually find the perfect place to volunteer.

But most importantly, I am looking forward to spending more time with Neil and the rest of our family, all located in the Albany/Saratoga area. I can pop in for a Mahjong game or go antiquing with my sister. We can drive in for Grandparents Day or for no reason at all. We are blessed with a loving family and are planning special as well as ordinary days with them all.”

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Rabbi Beigel Retires from Chaplaincies

Rabbi Irvin Beigel holds a bachelor's degree from Queens College in New York, as well as an M.H.L. and rabbinical ordination from the Jewish Theological seminary. After serving in synagogues for many years, he completed four units of clinical pastoral education and became a Jewish chaplain at the Pastoral Care Center of SUNY Upstate Medical University. In addition to visiting Jewish patients, Rabbi Beigel conducted a weekly televised Shabbat program from the Interfaith Chapel. He was also well known for appearing as a clown each year on Purim.

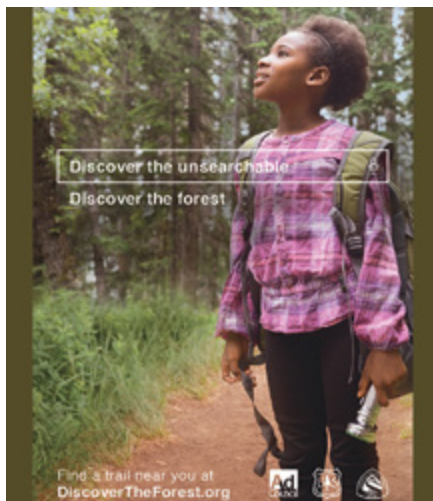


Rabbi Beigel was honored for his work this summer. A tribute to him noted that "Rabbi Irvin Beigel has given 17 years of devoted care visiting our Jewish patients and families as our (voluntary) Jewish Chaplain. He was in the first class of Clinical Pastoral Education Chaplain Interns at Upstate, Summer 2004, along with Fr. Innocent, our current Priest Chaplain. Rabbi visited Jewish patients twice weekly, rounding on units and also leading a televised Jewish program erev Shabbat in the Interfaith Chapel. He has provided ongoing literature and education through our Department on Jewish observances and holidays. When a medical student committed suicide, Rabbi participated in the memorial service and consoled the young man's family. When COVID-19 struck, Rabbi shifted to remoted chaplaincy visits twice a week, also calling family members of patients unable to speak for themselves, in order to offer pastoral support."

The Reverend Terry Culbertson, University Hospital's spiritual care manager, said "Rabbi Beigel has been a saint in visiting Upstate Jewish patients and families twice a week on a voluntary basis to make sure their religious and spiritual needs are addressed. What he has provided for the Jewish patients and families here at Upstate is irreplaceable, especially in this time of limited rabbis and pulpit demands."

Rabbi Beigel is not entirely retired, however. Although he will no longer serve at Upstate, Hutchings and Crouse Hospital (where he also served non-Jewish patients) as in the past, he

remains the Jewish chaplain at Loretto, visiting there on a monthly basis. In his new life as a semi-retiree, the rabbi hopes "to spend more time engaged in Jewish study and in reading." He also plans on doing some interesting travel, including a trip to Italy with his wife Jane. "Neither of us has been there before," he notes. "We hope to visit Milan, Venice and Florence, with a side trip to Verdi's birthplace." And, of course, he wants to make another trip to Israel, his twelfth. "I will not lack for what to do in retirement," he notes. "I pray that Jane and I will be blessed by God with good health and with the time to do these things." To that, the community offers a grateful amen.



A New Song for a Musician

Susan Jacobs recently celebrated her 50th anniversary as violinist with the Symphony in Syracuse. This year, after a 52-year career with the various iterations of the Syracuse Symphony, Susan has stepped down from her position with Symphoria and decided to exit stage left. She says, "I've warmed up my seat for the next generation and, after much thought, I've decided the time is now."

Susan, a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music, continued her studies with such notable teachers as Dorothy Delay at Juilliard and Franco Gulli in Siena, Italy. She performed as a member of the American Symphony Orchestra under Leopold Stokowski and pursued chamber music studies with the esteemed Hungarian and Guarneri Quartets. She joined the Syracuse Symphony in 1969 as a member of the first violin section and as first violinist in the Syracuse Symphony String Quartet. For five decades, Susan has been recognized as a teacher, coach and recitalist as well as establishing several successful string music programs in the Syracuse area.

But this is far from the end of her musical career. As she embarks upon a new chapter in her life, Susan plans to keep teaching and performing with the Seneca String Quartet, with whom she continues to create and present Jewish-themed concert programs. Her passion for communicating through her music will also continue as she intends to remain involved with the "Healing Harmonies" program, which encourages symphony musicians to perform for cancer



patients in the waiting room areas, as well as the infusion treatment areas, at cancer treatment centers in and around Syracuse.

She is known as a dedicated and creative teacher, not only in the world of music, but as a teacher of liturgy and *b'nai mitzvah* preparation. Susan currently serves on several boards, has participated in and presented programs in conjunction with the Syracuse Interreligious Council, chaired committees and taught adult education classes in prayer skills. Recently she has taken on the wonderful and rewarding challenges of working with and preparing *b'nai mitzvah* students who learn differently. Susan is always ready and willing to lead Shabbat morning services and chant Haftarah at CBS-CS.

In her precious free time, Susan loves being a *savta*, looks for intriguing photo ops, works in her therapy garden, enjoys nature, reads and writes. She says, "Remember, live music is best. Onward!!"




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As we celebrate the beginning of a new year, we are grateful for the tremendous generosity of members of our community who support our work in so many ways. Over four hundred wonderful contributors to the *Jewish Observer* Appeal allowed us not only to balance our budget last year, but to increase the size of the *JO* for 5782. The additional space will permit us to enlarge the font for the masthead and the *d'var Torah* and to add columns focused on more news of special interest to our community. In an era when even big-city and long-established Jewish newspapers are folding and social media is replacing print media, the *JO* seems to be bucking the trend in terms of readership support. As we begin the new year, we want to recognize and thank all of our *JO* Appeal donors for their generous and much-appreciated support and wish them and all of our subscribers a happy and healthful new year.



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REMEMBERING Linda Alexander

“Linda Alexander arrived in Central New York as a young woman and over the years forever changed its landscape in so many ways. There are so many of us that she touched, and we will remember her always.” These are the words of Jewish Community Foundation board chair Neil Bronstein. “It was always clear that Linda was at the center of the move to a more cohesive, collaborative and energetic community,” recalls Neil Rosenbaum, chair of the board of the Jewish Federation. “The benefits of her tireless efforts to establish and grow the Foundation will be felt permanently and provide resources for generations to come. While she is missed, her energy will always be with us.”

In his eulogy, Rabbi Daniel Jezer said, “Linda was strong and forceful and yet gentle; she was decisive and yet understanding. She was beautiful and yet modest. She was financially comfortable, yet always had in mind the more difficult days earlier in her life. She was refined and yet not at all pretentious.” Rabbi Evan Shore, head of the Syracuse Rabbinical Council, added, “In all of Linda’s endeavors, she always set the bar high. She presented a vision for herself, her family, and her community. In a way she was a matriarch to the Syracuse Jewish community, exerting her positive influence. She had an open heart overflowing with affection and was a source of courage and vision for all of us.”

This is the legacy of an extraordinary woman, whose work on behalf of the Central New York Jewish community was incredibly impactful. Michael Balanoff, who succeeded Linda as head of both the Foundation and the Federation, said of her, “Linda was committed to sustaining and enhancing Jewish life and did a superlative job with unparalleled style, grace and dignity.”

Linda grew up, in her own words, “a quiet little girl, Linda Appelbaum, from Brooklyn and then from Queens. We were a poor family. Every penny counted. My parents both worked. I was focused on my education and on working.” Linda was a math teacher in New York City before she met and married her husband Steven, a physician. They moved to Central New York where she taught junior and senior high school math and raised their three children. “I loved teaching,” Linda recalled. “Effective teaching is communicating, empowering someone to feel confident in what they are doing so they can find the answer.” Linda’s leadership in the community was based on principles which she was able to explain. “Whether I taught mathematics or worked with a board, a lot of it was about empowering them, giving them the confidence that they can do it. You have to



empower the people. Empowering people is the most important thing you can do as a leader.”

She was a strong believer in positive thinking. “Whatever you’re doing, you have to be positive. Turn any change into an opportunity. I’m not saying to be a Pollyanna. It’s not that everything is always wonderful. But people have to believe they’re going in the right direction,” she said. “People like success. Nothing succeeds like success. Nobody will follow you if it’s just dreams or hopes. Even in the short term, show people you are making progress.”

Before taking on the professional roles of executive director of the Jewish Community Foundation and president and chief executive officer of the Federation, Linda had served on the boards of the Jewish Home Foundation, the Inter-Religious Council and WCNY-TV. She chaired the Federation’s Annual Campaign and served as president of Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas. Her achievements were recognized with many awards. She was a Post-Standard Woman of Achievement, a Na’amat USA Woman of Achievement, a Temple Adath Yeshurun Citizen of the Year and the recipient of the Joseph and Esther Roth Award for Jewish Leadership and a Community Service Award from the Onondaga County Medical Association.

Linda was always focused on the future. “If you’re not training the next generation you are going to hit a wall,” she said. Her greatest gift to her community was her commitment to making a difference and making things happen. Her legacy will endure for generations, and it may truly be said of her, “Many women have displayed valor, but you rise above them all.”

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**GERTRUDE ZELL
TEPPER**
July 20, 2021



Gertrude Zell Tepper, age 98, died peacefully at the Jewish Home of Central New York on July 20.

Gertrude was born in Vienna, Austria in 1923, the oldest child of Sophie and Adolf (Avraham) Zell. After the Anschluss (Germany's annexation) in March 1938, it was clear that they had to leave Austria. Gertrude's parents were unable to secure visas, but to save the children, they found places for Gertrude (age 15) and Paul (age 13) on the Kindertransport, which brought them to England and "into the arms of strangers."

Through somewhat of a miracle, her parents were eventually able to receive visas to the United States and were able to bring Gertrude and Paul to New York. They settled in Brooklyn. Paul went to high school and Gertrude began to work to help support the family. Paul later joined the US Army, took part in D-Day and liberated Buchenwald concentration camp.

On the boardwalk in Brighton Beach,

Gertrude was reunited with a childhood Zionist youth friend from Vienna, Leon Tepper, who became the love of her life and husband of over 50 years. Together, they were devoted parents and raised four daughters in Far Rockaway, NY.

Gertrude's love of family was her primary passion and her immense compassion touched all who knew her. She had "golden hands" and her creativity was seen in her sewing, knitting, crocheting, cooking, baking and gardening. She was an active member of her Jewish community and her love of Judaism and the values of tikkun olam, "repairing the world," guided her life. Throughout their life together, she and Leon traveled the world embracing the many cultures they encountered.

After Leon's passing in 1994, Gertrude moved to Syracuse to be closer to where her daughter Linda lived with husband Dr. Paul Cohen and their three children. She was warmly welcomed by the community and enjoyed a full and vibrant life in her later years. She was an active member of Temple Adath Yeshurun.

Her positivity, compassion and determination served as a constant inspiration to her entire family and her future generations. Her presence left the world much better than she found it.

She is survived by her daughters: Carol (Dr. Harris) Sendach of Roslyn, NY, Linda (Dr. Paul) Cohen of Syracuse, Sharon (Ehud) Gefen of Tel Aviv, Israel and Barbara (Dr. Richard) Levy of Saugerties, NY; her grandchildren Rebecca (Dr. Brendan McGinn) Cohen, Dr. Jonah (Dr. Elizabeth Housman) Cohen, Dr. Ezra (Dr. Kate Liberman) Cohen, Keren (Yael Sela) Gefen, Daniel Gefen, Adam Gefen,

Jonathan Sendach, Jack Levy and Sophie Levy, and great-grandchildren Gabriel McGinn, Julian McGinn, Lillian McGinn, Noah Cohen, Avi Cohen, Ella Cohen, Iris Cohen, Tali Cohen, Liroy Sela-Gefen and Nuri Sela-Gefen.

Graveside services and burial were in Mt. Lebanon Cemetery, Glendale, NY. Donations in Gertrude's memory may be made to Temple Adath Yeshurun.

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ELAINE LAFFER GINGOLD
August 3, 2021

Elaine Laffer Gingold, 77, passed away on August 3 after a brief illness. Born on July 23, 1944 to Baurice and Helen Laffer, she was a life resident of Syracuse.

Elaine was a graduate of Buffalo State and received her master's degree in education from SUNY Oswego. She taught first, second and seventh grades in the North Syracuse school district. She also taught teachers "how to teach" reading and writing.

Elaine served on the Labrador Mountain Ski Patrol for 54 years. She received the 50-year pin and served in many capacities at the mountain: as a member of the board of the directors, as a teacher and trainer to other ski patrol members and as a volunteer in the emergency clinic. She received the yellow merit star for saving a life.

Elaine was a member of Temple Adath Yeshurun and Temple Concord. In her retirement, she had more time for herself and enjoyed playing mah jongg with her friends.

Her family includes her husband Richard of 54 years; their sons Dr. Brett, and Peter (Aileen); grandchildren Tiger, Sequoia, Jackson, and Hudson; brothers Dr. Jerry (Judy) Laffer, Stephen (Pam) Laffer; sisters Marilyn (Jerry Matsell) Laffer, and Renee (Nicholas Diakow) Laffer; brothers and sisters-in-law Neil and Susan Gingold, and Harlan and Diane Gingold; as well as a large and loving extended family.

Burial was in Frumah Packard Cemetery. Contributions in Elaine's memory may be made to The Richard Gingold Foundation c/o Dr. Ruth Weinstock, Joslin Center for Diabetes, 3229 E. Genesee Street, Syracuse, NY 13214. www.sisskindfuneralservice.com

LINDA ALEXANDER
July 28, 2021

Linda Alexander, 77, passed away on July 28 In Rancho Mirage, CA with her loving children by her side. Linda was born in Brooklyn to Harry and Minnie Applebaum. After receiving her bachelor of science degree in mathematics, she taught math at Paramus High School in New Jersey. Linda met her future husband, Dr. Steven K. Alexander, on a blind date set up by his Vietnam tentmate's wife; they were married three months later.

They settled in Syracuse, raised their family here and enjoyed a full life. They both had a strong Jewish identity and supported many Jewish causes. Though Linda was from a modest background, she never lacked for anything. Jewish agencies provided educational programs, summer camps and many opportunities.

In Linda's own words "My most fervent interest in all my fundraising was for the next generation - the children. The programs I am most proud of starting were the Teen Funders of the Foundation, the "Teen Taste of Israel" program with the Epstein Hebrew High School (where students were sent on a trip to Israel every two years during February break) and the Syracuse Community Hebrew school where all of the synagogues' Hebrew schools were combined into one school, so that the children would all get to know other. To me, the children should always be the most important. They are our future."

Linda was the executive director and founding director of The Jewish Community Foundation and the president and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Central New York. After her retirement from her position at the Jewish Community Foundation, the Foundation board named The Linda Alexander Teen Funders Program in her honor. She was thrilled.

Her family includes her son Keith (Bea) Alexander and their daughter Mia, her son Eric (Apple) Alexander and their children Ethan, Mason and Cooper, her daughter Karen (Aaron) Pomerantz and their children Zoey and Auggie, and her sister-in-law Eleanor Sontag.

Burial was in the Temple Beth Sholom section of Cortland Rural Cemetery. Contributions in Linda's memory may be made to The Jewish Federation of CNY, The Jewish Community Foundation of CNY or Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas.

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**Annual
Memorial
Service**
Congregation Ahavath
Achim Cemetery
Sunday, September 12th
11:30 am

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LILLIAN B. GLAZER
July 21, 2021



Lillian B. Glazer passed away peacefully on July 21 in Syracuse. She was born on May 29, 1926 in Newark, NJ to Nathan and Bessie Biberberg. Lillian was very proud of the date of her birth, as she shared it with Bob Hope, President John F. Kennedy and, as a lover of Syracuse University sports, Carmelo Anthony.

She was married to Sherwin Glazer, her husband of 68 years, who predeceased her in 2020. The photo is from her wedding day. Lillian also had three brothers who predeceased her: Sidney, Eugene and her twin brother Morris who passed away several days after his birth.

Lillian graduated from Weequahic High School in Newark and went to work immediately. Working and taking care of both her brothers and father (who was already a widower) kept her very busy. But Lillian found time to spend a weekend in the Catskills in 1951 and met Sherwin. They married in 1952, when she moved to Syracuse. Sherwin taught her to drive, as she never had the need in Newark. In 1963, they moved to DeWitt. She later attended Syracuse University and Oasis, taking many courses with emphasis on the movie and film industries.

Lillian worked part-time as a professional choreographer and worked in credit and collections in the family business, J. Glazer & Sons. She and Sherwin both retired in 1987.

She was a lover of books and a voracious reader, mostly fiction. Her nightstand was always filled with reading material. Lillian was a devotee of music, both classical and show tunes. She had a large collection of Fred Astaire memorabilia and also some from Frank Sinatra. She loved receiving a card from the Sinatra family after she sent him a note of condolence on the death of his mother.

Survivors are her two children Bradley S. Glazer (Laurel Rubin) of University Heights, OH and Julia A. Glazer Reina of Somerville, NJ; her grandchildren Stephanie (Jeffrey) Walcoff, Andrew (Jillian) Glazer, Michael Reina, Leanne (Tommy) Reina-Paolazzi, and Jonathan (Lakeya Daniel) Reina and her great-grandchildren Madeline Walcoff, Noah Walcoff, Juliana Paolazzi, Jonathan Reina (deceased) and Michael Ira Reina.

Graveside services were private. Donations in remembrance may be made to Temple Adath Yeshurun or Menorah Park.

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RICHARD "DICK" EGGERT
July 30, 2021

Richard "Dick" Eggert, 87, died peacefully at home on July 30. Born in Newport, RI on December 6, 1933 he was the son of Harry and Josephine Eggert. He grew up in Bradley Beach, NJ. Dick graduated from Rutgers University and worked for Anaconda Metal Hose in Chicago, where he also met and married his wife Abby. They moved to Syracuse when he was transferred in 1963. In 1968 he established Flex-Hose Company.

He was a resident of DeWitt for almost 60 years making lifelong friends in the neighborhood and nearby. Dick was one of the earliest presidents of the Men's Club of Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra

ROBERT "BOB" MILLSTEIN
July 23, 2021

Robert "Bob" Millstein died peacefully at home on July 23. He was born in Syracuse on July 19, 1934 to Hyman and Fanny Millstein and was predeceased by his sisters Anita Groth and Barbara Feinberg.

Bob remained a lifelong resident of Syracuse. He attended Nottingham High School after which he proudly served for four years in the Air Force. Bob spent his career in the office products industry as sales manager for Seymour "Mr. Pens" Simon, Inc., and was a proud member of the National Association of Writing Instrument Distributors (NAWID).

Bob was an avid SU sports fan and enjoyed a good round of golf with his friends. He was also known for his barbeque and culinary skills and learned many of his techniques from his favorite cooking shows.

Bob is survived by his loving wife Carole of 61 years; their children Dr. Jeffrey (Rose)

GARY ROBERT WIDGER
July 16, 2021

We mourn the loss of Gary Robert Widger, 70. He had a wonderful childhood growing up in Homer and after marriage settled with his wife and family in Liverpool.

Gary worked at Syracuse University in many different departments for more than 37 years. He was a co-founder of BASCOL (after school childcare), volunteer at Liverpool HS Senior Days, active in the Bayberry Association and a volunteer at Upstate Hospital.

His family includes his wife Sandy of 43 years, their children Lee and Jacky, and his sister Lynn (Nick Brown) Minor.

Donations in Gary's memory may be made to Temple Concord or The Lyme Disease Association.

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Shas and was an active member of the congregation since its earliest years. He was an avid fisherman, SU sports fan and he loved to travel with his family. Dick was known for his party planning and his love of food, friends and family. He had a great sense of humor and loved a good joke.

He was pre-deceased by his wife Abby, and his brother Theodore. His family includes his children Vicki Toran, Andrea (Stan) Speer, and Neil (Sharon) Eggert and grandchildren Scott Toran, Julie and Rebecca Speer and Jenna and Lindsay Eggert.

Burial was in the Beth Sholom section of Oakwood Cemetery. Contributions in Dick's memory may be made to Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas.

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Millstein, Susan (Dr. Tara Estra) Millstein and Stephen (Gina) Millstein and grandchildren Michael Millstein,

Ian Millstein, Laurel Estra-Sciandra, and Maya Estra-Sciandra.

Burial was in the Beth Sholom section of Oakwood Cemetery. Contributions may be made to Congregation Beth Sholom-Chevra Shas.

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SIDNEY PAUL LESSER
July 12, 2021

Sidney Paul Lesser, 82, passed away on July 12 at The Nottingham. Born in Brooklyn on April 21, 1939, he had been a resident of Syracuse since 1963. In 1985 he and his wife Arlene established Jewelry on James which flourished and continues under the ownership of their daughter Lori and her husband Tom Marini.

Sidney was a devoted family man and Grandpa to his seven grandchildren. Any request from them was met with "I don't see why not!" For many years he owned racehorses at Vernon Downs. He was a proud owner and loved riding in the sulky. Sidney will forever be remembered for his kindness and generosity to so many. He was a fun-loving man who was always the center of the party.

His family includes his wife Arlene of 58 years, their children Michael (Susan), Lori (Tom), and Steven (Jennie); grandchildren Tommy, Sarah, Morgan, Alex, Genevieve, Chloe (Logan) and Michael; and his sister Dawn (Stan) Berger.

In lieu of flowers please do an act of kindness in Sidney's memory.

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L'Shana Tova!

5782

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Meal Mart 1st Cut Brisket
Kosher



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Kosher



2/\$6

with AdvantEdge Card
Golden Pancakes
10.6 oz.
Select Varieties



2/\$7

with AdvantEdge Card
Gefen Honey Cake
15.89 oz.
Honey, Marble or Apple



13.99

with AdvantEdge Card
Meal Mart Stuffed Cabbage
39 oz.



3.99

Plain Round Challah Bread
Large • Raisin \$4.99



1.99

with AdvantEdge Card
Farmers Horseradish
8.5 oz.
White



5/\$5

with AdvantEdge Card
Streit's Egg Noodles
12 oz. • Select Varieties or Bows 8 oz.



2/\$3

with AdvantEdge Card
Streit's Potato Pancake Mix
6 oz. or Low Sodium



2.99

with AdvantEdge Card
Market 32 Eastern Red Apples
U.S. #1



2.49

with AdvantEdge Card
Breakstone's Whipped Butter
8 oz. Tub
Salted or Unsalted



5/\$5

with AdvantEdge Card
Streit's Matzo Ball & Soup Mix
4.5 oz.
Select Varieties



2.99

with AdvantEdge Card
PICS Honey Bear
12 oz.



5.99

with AdvantEdge Card
PICS Smoked Salmon
4 oz. • Regular or Pepper & Garlic



4.99

with AdvantEdge Card
Osem Chicken Style Consomme
14.1 oz. or Osem Tri-Color Pearl Couscous 21.16 oz.



2/\$4

with AdvantEdge Card
Lipton Kosher Soup Secrets Noodle Soup Mix
4.09 oz.



3.49

with AdvantEdge Card
Wolff's Kasha
13 oz.
Select Varieties



2/\$6 -1.00
AdvantEdge Retail
Coupon Savings



2/\$3

with AdvantEdge Card
Season Sardines in Olive Oil
4.375 oz.



2/\$4

with AdvantEdge Card
Osem Toasted Couscous
8.8 oz.



2/\$4

with AdvantEdge Card
Elite Chocolate Bars
3.5 oz. • Milk Chocolate or Bittersweet



2/\$5
with AdvantEdge Card & Coupon Below
Kedem Sparkling Juice
25.4 oz. • Select Varieties



5.99

with AdvantEdge Card
Yehuda Gefilte Fish
24 oz.
Sweet



2/\$5

with AdvantEdge Card
Streit's Apple & Honey Fruit Slices
6 oz.



5/\$3

with AdvantEdge Card
Kedem Tea Biscuits
4.2 oz. • Select Varieties Where Available



4.99

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Vita Herring In Sour Cream
12 oz. or In Wine Sauce



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Offers effective Sunday, August 8 thru Saturday, September 18, 2021 in all Price Chopper, Market 32 and Market Bistro stores located in CT, MA, NH, NY, PA & VT. Not all items are available in all stores.